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10 June 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for National Estimates

SUBJECT : NIE 11-5-55: Bloc Air Defense Capabilities,  
1955-1960.

1. The EIC Ad Hoc Working Group on NIE 11-5-55 submits the attached as a first approximation of a contribution to Step Three, Terms of Reference, subject as above, dated 24 November 1954. This contribution has been coordinated by committee members from Air Force, Army, Navy, and CIA and the material on electronics was based on a contribution from the EIC Subcommittee on Electronics and Telecommunications. However, this contribution does not necessarily represent the official view of all of the represented agencies.

2. This contribution is considered a first approximation because it is based on estimates made by the Step Two Committee which, in the opinion of the members of this EIC Ad Hoc Working Group, are now outdated and unrealistic. Specifically, it appears that fighter aircraft which were not expected until one or two years from now are currently in operation in the USSR. The Step Three Committee also considers it unrealistic that the Soviets will introduce in large numbers four new all-weather fighters into their air defense system by 1960. The economics of the problem leads the committee to conclude that it is more likely that only two all-weather fighters may be introduced during the period of this estimate. This opinion is based on the conclusion reached in the attached draft for Step Three, that "Certain portions of the program postulated by Step Two, such as aircraft and guided missiles, could be fulfilled on the required scale within the period of this estimate only if the capability of the Soviet Bloc electronic equipment industry were expanded to a far greater extent than is currently estimated."

3. If the number of new types of aircraft estimated to be introduced is reduced, the aggregate cost of the fighter aircraft program might be reduced significantly over the period of this estimate.

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4. Until Step Two is reworked in light of the new information and the tentative economic conclusions in the attached contribution, the EIC Ad Hoc Working Group cannot prepare a final Step Three contribution. In light of these remarks the Step Two contribution and the attached Step Threese contribution based on it can be viewed only as highly tentative.



Chairman

EIC Ad Hoc Working Group  
on NIE 11-5-55

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